

# Request for Proposals (RFP) – 2018 Western Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program

July 11, 2017

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation is now accepting applications for the 2018 Western Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant Program.

Offered by the office of the Montana State Forester in partnership with USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry, the Western WUI Grant Program offers financial assistance to mitigate risk from wildland fire to residents living in and around forested areas of 18 western states and island territories. Funds are awarded through a competitive process for projects addressing five key areas: hazardous fuel reduction, restoring resilient landscapes, information and education, assessment and planning, and monitoring through community and landowner action.

## Application Submission

Applicants must complete the attached DNRC Western WUI grant application, in accordance with the guidelines in the attached document “Criteria and Instructions to States” and additional special instructions included in this document. The application and instructions may also be viewed at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/forest-stewardship/western-wildland-urban-interface-grant-program>. The 2018 application may have been altered from previous versions - **please be sure to use the 2018 form!**

**Application due date: 5pm on August 15, 2016**

**Submit PDF applications electronically to [nfpgrants@mt.gov](mailto:nfpgrants@mt.gov)**

## Application Review and Selection Process

Applications will be scored and ranked by a statewide selection committee, based on criteria as defined by the Western States Fire Managers (see attached Criteria and Instructions to States) and by a state-specific point system which allows for stratification of applications. **Please read the Criteria and Instructions to States completely and carefully. In addition, please pay close attention to the following special instructions from the state scoring committee:**

### Special instructions:

#### 1. STEWARDSHIP PLANS REQUIRED FOR ALL COST-SHARE BENEFICIARIES

Recipients of FY2018 Western WUI grants will be required to develop a basic forest stewardship plan for each property owner (beneficiary) receiving cost-share assistance through this program.

**Proposals should include a statement of intent to develop plans in Box 11, Project**

**Sustainability.** Plans must include the following basic criteria:

- Document authorship.
- Clearly state landowner objectives.
- Describe current and desired forest condition.
- Include practices and activities aimed at reaching the desired forest condition.
- Document a feasible strategy and timeline for practice and activity implementation.
- Describe any suggested monitoring activities to be done by the forester or landowner.

- Be developed for a specified management period that adequately allows for progress with the landowner's long term stewardship objectives.
- Plans are not intended to be extremely lengthy or technical and may be crafted through a variety of channels. They are intended to take the place of treatment monitoring agreements. Please contact the DNRC Stewardship Specialist if you require more clarification on plan components.
2. DO NOT alter the application form in any way. Alterations to the application form will result in immediate disqualification.
  3. Total maximum federal award is \$300,000. DNRC will retain 10% for program management and administrative costs; therefore, the maximum grant request for this application is \$270,000.
  4. The WUI grant program requires a match of 1:1 federal to non-federal funds, which DNRC will meet. DNRC requires an additional match of 3:1 federal to non-federal funds from project partners. For instance, a grant request of \$270,000 will require a match of \$90,000 from the applicant. Applicants must describe their sources of match in Box 9, Project Collaboration. For hazard fuel reduction proposals, match will only be allowed through the "payments to landowners" category met by the landowner/beneficiary as a non-federal contributor.
  5. The national instructions ask applicants to address their proposal's relationship to state Forest Action Plans and CWPPs (Box 6). Montana's revised Forest Action Plan can be found here: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/forestry/forestry-assistance/state-assessment-of-forest-resources-and-forest-action-plan>. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with this document and refer to it in throughout preparation of their grant proposal.
  6. Applicants who submit more than one project proposal must prioritize proposals in order of most important to least important. Prioritization of proposals will only be taken into consideration in the event of a tie between multiple proposals. Priority listings must be communicated to the state scoring committee via email at the time of application submission.

Scoring Timeline: The state scoring committee will determine which proposals move on to the western regional scoring process by August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Applicants will be notified shortly thereafter whether their application will move on for further consideration at the regional level and will work with the proposal cooperator to make additional edits necessary for strong performance at the regional level. Regional scoring will take place in late October of 2017. Applicants will be notified of the outcome following approval from the Council of Western State Foresters in December of 2017. Funding will be awarded to successful applicants in the fall of 2018.

For questions or comments on the application process, scoring and ranking system, or Western WUI Grant Program in general, please contact the DNRC stewardship specialist.

Erik Warrington, Stewardship Specialist  
Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation  
2705 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804  
Phone: 406.542.4303  
Email: ewarrington@mt.gov